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LISA A. HAILE, PH.D.
GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH LLP
Suite 1600
4365 Executive Drive
San Diego, CA 92121-2189

EXAMINER

EPPERSON, JON D

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRICTION

Please Note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1627 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The fax number is (703) 308-4315. A fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Andrew Wang, Supervisory Patent Examiner, at (703) 306-3217. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

Please Note: There is a change in Examiner handling prosecution in the current case from Examiner Steven C. Tizio to Jon D. Epperson.

1. The Response to Restriction Requirement dated October 30, 2002, is acknowledged (Paper No. 16).

2. Applicant's election of species i.e., "thermophiles", "gel microdroplets" and "polynucleotide of interest that directs the synthesis of a small molecule" is also acknowledged (see Paper No. 16, page 1). The traversal will be addressed in the first action on the merits.

3. Upon further review of applicants' claims, an additional restriction and/or election of species was deemed necessary (see below).

Election/Restriction

1. Upon review of the instant case, the application was deemed to contain claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Election from the following species is required. Note: applicant must elect *one* species from *each* subgroup below. Claim 1 is generic

Subgroup 1: Species of thermophile (see claim 9)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of thermophile e.g., hyperthermophile. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 2: Species of small molecule (see claim 22)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of small molecule wherein a specific structure is set forth, which clearly shows all of the atoms and bonds that are necessary to define the small molecule. Applicant should not use notations like X or R when identifying the elected structure because these letters represent groups with variable members and, as a result, more than one species would be erroneously elected. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 3: Species of library (see claim 3)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of library e.g., select from Examples in specification. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 4: Species of detectable molecule (see claim 4)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of detectable molecule wherein a specific structure is set forth, which clearly shows all of the atoms and bonds that are necessary to define the detectable molecule. Applicant should not use notations like X or R when identifying the elected structure because these letters represent groups with variable members and, as a result, more than one species would be erroneously elected. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 5: Species of analyzer (see claim 5)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of analyzer e.g., FACS analyzer. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 6: Species of reporter system (e.g., see claims 10-12 and 20-21)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a single species of reporter system wherein a specific structure is set forth, which clearly shows all of the atoms and bonds that are necessary to define the reporter system. Applicant should not use notations like X or R when identifying the elected structure because these letters represent groups with variable members and, as a result, more than one species would be erroneously elected. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

Subgroup 7: Species of operon (e.g., see claims 23-25)

If applicant's election of a "small molecule" for a "polynucleotide of interest" (see subgroup 2 above) somehow encompasses a "one or more operons" (see claims 23-25), applicant is further required to elect a single species of operon e.g., an operons for a specific polyketide pathway. Furthermore, applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species.

2. **Please note:** applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected species above.
3. The species are distinct, each from the other, because their structures and modes of action are different. They would also differ in their reactivity and the starting materials from which they are made. For different species of method, the method steps for each species would differ. Moreover, the above species can be separately classified. Consequently, the species have different issues regarding patentability and represent patentably distinct subject matter. Therefore, this does create an undue search burden, and election for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.
5. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

6. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143). Because the above restriction/election requirement is complex, a telephone call to applicants to request an oral election was not made. See MPEP § 812.01.

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

10. Applicant is also reminded that a 1 - month (not less than 30 days) shortened statutory period will be set for response when a written requirement is made without an action on the merits. This period may be extended under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Such action will not be an "action on the merits" for purposes of the second action final program, see MPEP 809.02(a).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-2423. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang, can be reached on (703) 306-3217. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D.
January 1, 2003

BENNETT CELSA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BENNETT CELSA".

